

## COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

December 3, 2013

6:00 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight/Chairperson, Keith Vinci, Marie Hurley, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Phil Cacciola, Joseph Carta (via phone), Richard Pelletier

**Absent:** Steven Shapiro

**Staff Present:** Karen Nocera, Staff, Parks and Recreation, Debbie Stanley, Acting Director Recreation & Community Services

**Youth in Government Present:** Abigail Nolan

**General Public:** none

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:00pm.

**3. Public Hearing:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Oct. 1, 2013, was made by Marie Hurley and seconded by August DeFrance. The motion was passed.*

### Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance reported that the Ekersley Hall Building Committee is meeting once a month. Everything is on schedule.
- Marty Knight asked Marie Hurley about the Mattabasset Project meeting. She was unable to attend the last meeting.
- Ellie Paules stated that everything at Monarca Place has been quiet.
- Karen Nocera informed the committee that the Recreation Division is working on the Toy Drive and the Pictures with Santa program. The Recreation Division is still accepting donations of money and new toys.
- Deb Stanley asked if the committee wanted to continue to meet at 6:00 pm. There was discussion about the meeting time. *A motion was made to keep the time at 6:00 pm by Marie Hurley and seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion passed.*
- There was also discussion about the meeting site. Karen Nocera mentioned that the nice thing about meeting at Riverview Center is that we don't have to worry about being "bumped". *A motion was made to meet at the Recreation office by Keith Vinci and seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion passed.*
- Abigail Nolan stated that students are awaiting Christmas break. The committee members praised the "ROAR" video that Mercy High School recorded. The school came in 9<sup>th</sup> place.
- Marty Knight told the Committee that his e-mail to the Mayor (explaining the voting problems that people with disabilities had at the last election) went unanswered. He reported that Janice G. apologized to him and urged him not to make an official complaint with the State Election Enforcement Commission. Richard Pelletier spoke of the difficulties he had at the MHS voting site. The voting area was very "cramped" and it was very difficult to maneuver. He wondered if a wheelchair would be able to get through. He also was directed out the back door which was a very

long walk back to his parked car. If Marty does not have a response from the Mayor by the next meeting, Keith will write a letter.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Keith Vinci's letter concerning the construction project at Middlesex Community College was made available. The committee members praised Keith's writing skills.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that the walk light by Ramani's has probably been hit by a truck and it is now facing in such a way that it cannot be seen by the pedestrians that need to see it.
- Phil suggested that the Public Works Department be reminded to clear snow from the curb cuts.
- Phil also suggested that the committee ask the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business District to remind the restaurants in the spring to place their tables and chairs in such a way to leave the necessary 48 inch clear lane for strollers, elderly, wheelchairs and others with disabilities.

**Old Business**

**New Business:**

**Miscellaneous:**

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:00 pm

**Adjournment:** *A motion of adjournment was made by Keith Vinci and was seconded by Phil Cacciola. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Stanley